

# SOVIET U. N. CHIEF LINKED TO SEAMEN

5 Who Went Back to Russia  
Saw Sotolov First, Youth  
Still Here Tells Senate

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Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, April 20—A young Russian sailor who left communism for America testified today that the chief Soviet delegate to the United Nations had been a major participant in persuading five other sailors to return to Russia on April 7.

Viktor Solovyev, who came to this country with eight other Soviet youths in October, 1955, told the Senate Internal Security subcommittee that several of the five "redefectors" had been taken by Soviet agents to talk to Arkady A. Sobolev at his Park Avenue headquarters.

The five were hustled aboard a Scandinavian Airlines plane at New York International Airport, Idlewild, Queens, on the morning of April 7 by a group of twenty to twenty-five Russian agents. The subcommittee is investigating the incident and the reasons why United States officials apparently made no attempt to stop it.

Jan Van Hoogstratten, assistant director of the Church World Service, also testified that it was his impression that the Soviet United Nations headquarters had been chiefly responsible for persuading the five sailors to return home. Mr. Hoogstratten and the church group have worked with agencies of the United States Government to take care of the youths and to help them find jobs.

## Chairman Defines Aims

Senator Herman Welker, acting chairman of the subcommittee, said the group might ask United States Immigration Service officials to testify later. But an Idaho Republican said that the subcommittee's main interest was to ascertain how far the Soviet United Nations delegation five days after they had gone in "bringing the Soviet conspiracy to us right here at home."

Mr. Solovyev and his comrades were among twenty men of the crew of the Russian tanker, Tuapse, who refused to return to the Soviet Union after the ship had been asked by the Chinese Nationalist Government to take the Russian youth to Formosa in June, 1955. The ship had been carrying fuel to Red China for its war effort.

The captain and crew members were taken to Taiwan eleven Soviet agents want to come to the United States. Mr. Solovyev said he was in his application for a passport to the United States.

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sions of what occurred before the five sailors went home on April 7. Mr. Van Hoogstratten said he had been in close touch with "a government agency," which he did not identify further, during the events of that week.

He said that of the nine sailors who originally came to the United States in 1955, three "went over" to this Government agency and were still somewhere in this country.

## Told in Advance

Mr. Van Hoogstratten said that he had learned from Mr. Solovyev on Friday, April 8, the day before the five redefectors left, that some were planning to go back. He said that while Mr. Solovyev was in his office a representative of the Government agency had called to tell him that "something was cooking."

He said the Government agent had told him that the sailors were leaving at 4 o'clock the next afternoon from Idlewild Airport and had asked him to be there at 3 P. M. in the hope that he might talk to them. However, he testified, the agent had called back at 10:15 Saturday morning and told him that he should not go to the airport.

"Have bigger people than we taken this matter into their hands?" Mr. Van Hoogstratten said he had asked the agent. "He said, 'I guess so.'"

Mr. Van Hoogstratten said that as soon as he hung up he had asked his wife to get out the car, because he was going to the airport.

He said at the airport he had seen the five sailors surrounded by about nineteen Soviet agents, but the boys would not speak to him and had pretended they had not seen him.

He said the sailors had been taken to the Immigration Service office for a brief hearing and then had been hurried onto the plane.

"It was my firm impression," he said, "that there were other agents of the United States Government in the halls who knew what was going on."

He said he had been convinced that the matter was "entirely in the hands of the [United States] Government" at that point. He said he could not believe that the same Government that had asked for eight months to let him decide if he could decide in Soviet United Nations delegation five days after they had gone in "bringing the Soviet conspiracy to us right here at home."

## Obel Session Refused

Mr. Van Hoogstratten contacted the subcommittee and called Mr. Solovyev. Mr. Van Hoogstratten read into the record a letter from the Immigration Service requesting the Russian youth be heard (Formosa) in June, 1955. However, the subcommittee overruled the request.

Mr. Solovyev then began testifying through an interpreter. He said he had been approached by two Soviet agents at 3 P. M. on Wednesday, April 7, when he was in his apartment at George Washington University.

two letters from her, a picture of an aunt, and two pictures of several girl-friends. They told him that another sailor, Michael Shishin, had already gone to the delegation headquarters to talk to Mr. Sobolev, and invited him to do the same.

Mr. Solovyev said that he had told the agents that they must have known he was "an enemy of the people and a political criminal" for having come to America.

"He said he told them," Miss Von Meyer translated, "that he was only 20, that if he was 40 he might be willing to return to Russia and stay twenty years in prison, but he was young and he liked it here and he would like to stay."

## In Mother's Handwriting

The young sailor said the letters had been in his mother's handwriting, but had used political expressions that she would not ordinarily use.

Later in the day he said he had seen another of the sailors, Valentin Lukashov, who told him that he also had been approached by agents. He said that Mr. Lukashov had told him, "I am not a small child, and I know what it would mean to me if I went back."

Still another sailor, Alexander Shirin, also told him he had been approached by agents.

Mr. Solovyev said he last had seen Lukashov and Shirin in the early morning hours of April 6, when he had visited them in their room in the International Students House. He said they had stayed up until 5 A. M. discussing the situation. All three decided then that they would not return to Russia.

## Surprised That 3 Left

He added that he did not know whether the Communists had "convinced or forced" Lukashov and Shirin to leave the country. But he said he had been "very much surprised" to learn on April 7 that they had left because he knew they had not wanted to go.

Mr. Solovyev said that Soviet agents had made no further attempt to reach him since April 7. He answered "yes and no" when asked if he felt any fear for his safety at the present time. He said he thought he had "enough" protection, but added quickly that he would like to have a gun.